



Plant Materials Program

Economic Impact



"The Plant Materials Program and its cooperators have contributed the bulk of the material and technology now used in ecosystem restoration and are our foundation for meeting conservation challenges of the future."

From D.T. Booth and T.A. Jones, "Plants for ecological restoration: a foundation and philosophy for the future" in *Native Plants Journal*, Spring 2001

Seed and Plant Production - What is it Worth?

The sale of seed and plants represents a significant economic value to growers, distributors, and retailers. The following table summarizes 2001 commercial seed and plant production and the value of conservation plants released to commercial growers by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Plant Materials Program.

Releases from All Plant Materials Centers		
Type	Amount (lbs)	Annual Value
Certified Seed	10,130,407	\$51,508,231
Common Seed	8,675,177	\$31,982,063
All Plants	22,661,804	\$9,938,446
Total Annual Value		\$93,428,740

Conservation Benefits - What is the Value?

Plant Materials Program conservation plants are used to address a wide variety of conservation needs throughout the U.S. and beyond our borders. Based on the annual commercial sales during the year 2001, it is estimated that Plant Materials Program conservation plant releases had the following impact:

- ❖ Enough seed to plant 3.7 million acres.
- ❖ Enough plants to revegetate 21,167 acres.
- ❖ Enough trees and shrubs to plant a row 2,180 miles long.
- ❖ In all, Plant Materials Program releases would cover an area three times the size of Delaware.



Brochures for each release transfer plant technology to the user.

Technology Development - Who Uses It?

Private landowners, NRCS field offices, and various conservation partners benefit from the more than 500 conservation plant releases available and the associated plant science technology to use these plants. The Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) is the primary technical reference used in conservation programs. Almost 75 percent of the grass cultivars listed in the FOTG are from the Plant Materials Program. Plants offer a powerful and effective tool for today's conservation priorities.

For more information, visit <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> and <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

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